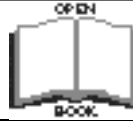


Selection Test

The Seafarer

translated by Burton Raffel



Pupil's Edition page 55

Comprehension (70 points; 10 points each)

On the line provided, write the letter of the *best* answer to each of the following items.

- _____ 1. Most images at the beginning of the poem refer to
- a. coldness c. animals
b. color d. heroes
- _____ 2. The speaker's feelings for the sea are *best* described as
- a. hostile and resentful c. respectful and fascinated
b. friendly and loving d. cheerful and sympathetic
- _____ 3. The tone in which the speaker describes earlier times is
- a. objective, because he describes past events as a reporter would
b. nostalgic, because he speaks with longing
c. bitter, because he speaks of his former companions with hatred
d. humorous, because he uses irony to describe the past
- _____ 4. The speaker thinks that the world in its present state is
- a. an improvement on the past
b. not seriously flawed
c. striving to improve
d. without glory and honor
- _____ 5. Which of the following statements *best* describes the speaker's thoughts about death?
- a. He fears suffering and dying a painful death.
b. He is afraid of freezing to death.
c. He believes that he will die at sea.
d. He wants to be buried with gold to please God.
- _____ 6. The poem ends with a
- a. prayer to Thor
b. statement of the poet's beliefs
c. song of praise for the sea
d. return to the speaker's sea story
- _____ 7. Life has taught the speaker that
- a. worldly glory and power vanish
b. fate and God help only sailors
c. life on land can be exciting
d. kings reward courageous acts

Literary Element: Elegy (10 points; 5 points each)

On the line provided, write the letter of the *best* answer to each of the following items.

- _____ 8. That “The Seafarer” is an elegy is supported by all of the following assertions **except** that the
- a. speaker laments something lost
 - b. poem is filled with a sense of sadness
 - c. speaker begs God’s forgiveness
 - d. speaker stresses the transience of earthly life
- _____ 9. All of the following quotations from “The Seafarer” are characteristic of an elegy **except**
- a. “The days are gone / When the kingdoms of earth flourished in glory”
 - b. “No passion for women, no worldly pleasures”
 - c. “How the sea . . . swept me back / And forth in sorrow”
 - d. “Called me eagerly out, sent me over / The horizon”

Written Response (20 points)

10. Life is often compared to a voyage. The first half of “The Seafarer” (lines 1–63) describes the speaker’s sea voyages and his desire to be at sea. How do the speaker’s travels reflect his views of life? On a separate sheet of paper, write one paragraph on this subject, supporting your statements with your knowledge of Anglo-Saxon life and at least two examples from the poem.

Answer Key

THE ANGLO-SAXONS

LITERARY PERIOD INTRODUCTION TEST, page 1

1. d 2. a 3. c 4. d 5. c
6. d 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. c

Collection 1: Songs of Ancient Heroes

from *Beowulf*

SELECTION TEST, page 3

Comprehension

1. a 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. a

Literary Elements

6. d 7. b 8. c 9. a

Vocabulary

10. c 11. h 12. d 13. e 14. i
15. a 16. b 17. j 18. g 19. f

Written Response

20. Responses will vary. In a model response, students should fulfill the following criteria:
- demonstrate understanding of the prompt
 - describe challenges in Anglo-Saxon life that the monsters in *Beowulf* represent. For example:
 - The monsters may represent enemies from other lands. Warfare was a constant condition of Anglo-Saxon life. The monsters' ferociousness and ruthlessness suggest the violence of marauding warriors.
 - The monsters' carnage might symbolize the brevity of life in Anglo-Saxon times—war, disease, and an extraordinarily harsh environment caused many people to die young.
 - incorporate knowledge of Anglo-Saxon society as well as images associated with the monster. For example:
 - The warriors of Anglo-Saxon times, like the monsters, were ruthless, destroying almost everything and everyone they encountered. Similarly, Grendel commits wholesale slaughter at Herot, delighting in the blood he spills; Grendel's mother takes savage revenge, invading Herot and killing Hrothgar's best friend; and the dragon, furious because someone stole its jeweled cup, lays waste to all the land of the Geats.

Each monster is relentless, merciless, and vicious—like an invading warrior.

- support ideas with at least two references to Anglo-Saxon life and *Beowulf* (previous examples are sufficient)

The Seafarer

SELECTION TEST, page 5

Comprehension

1. a 2. c 3. b 4. d 5. c
6. c 7. a

Literary Element

8. c 9. d

Written Response

10. Responses will vary. In a model response, students should fulfill the following criteria:
- demonstrate understanding of the prompt
 - relate the speaker's travels on the seas to his views about life. For example:
 - The speaker's difficult seafaring experiences color his view of life; he believes life is difficult and brief. He also emphasizes the dangers and uncertainties of sea travel, so he seems to view life as perilous and unpredictable. However, he longs to be at sea again, so despite life's hardships, he still has hope and yearns for adventure.
 - support their ideas with at least two examples from "The Seafarer" (previous examples are sufficient)

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, page 7

1. d 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. a
6. d 7. c 8. b 9. c 10. b